## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides novel methods for determining the bioactivity of a plasmid encoding for an endothelial cell mitogen. The invention also provides a method to optimize a plasmid construct for use in a gene therapy procedure. Further, the invention provides a quantitative quality control assay for evaluating a batch of plasmid DNA prior to use in a gene therapy treatment.

BOS2\_177785.1

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